(b) and (c) No Life span is specified for aircraft. The operation of an aircraft may continue subject to its air-worthiness being certified by the DGCA.

Alliance between AI and International Airlines

1238. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India is contemplating to enter into an alliance with some international airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Air India had recently withdrawn some of their flights and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the alliance would help the Airline in restoration of the flights recently withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Air India already have Code-share/Joint Venture/Alliance Agreements with Air France, Air Mauritius, Austrian Airlines, Asiana Airlines, Bellview Airlines, Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways, Malaysian Airlines, Scandinavian Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Swiss Air.

(c) As part of its route-rationalisation, Air India have withdrawn services from Frankfurt, Rome and Manchester during the year 1999.

(d) Out of the three stations withdrawn from the network, Frankfurt is presently begin served by Air India through a connect Code-share with Air France over Paris.

Expansion of Bhopal Airport for Airbus service

†1239. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter of constructing an airfield at Bhopal to introduce an airbus service by Airports Authority of India is under consideration;

(b) if so, whether the proposal to allocate extra land for extension

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.